

Appln. No.: 10/767,514

Amdt. dated August 20, 2007

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 20, 2007, claims 1-18 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,792,038 and 6,212,225. Two terminal disclaimers are submitted herewith to overcome the double patenting rejections.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,864,545 ("Gonikberg"). Claim 1 is directed to a startup protocol including an operation of: "for each transceiver, separating the convergence of the equalizer and the timing recovery system from the convergence of the noise reduction system." The Examiner asserts that this aspect of the present invention is taught by Gonikberg at column 6, line 49 – column 7, line 11. Applicant respectfully disagrees. According to this excerpt of Gonikberg, the echo canceller 410 and the equalizer 490 can be decoupled during transmit-only and receive-only phases of half-duplex training (col. 6, lines 55-60), but there is no mention of separating the convergence of a timing recovery system from the convergence of a noise reduction system, per claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Gonikberg. Applicant therefore requests allowance of claim 1 and claims 2-6 depending therefrom.

Claim 7 is directed to a startup protocol including "executing a first stage during which the timing recovery system and the equalizer of the slave are trained and the noise reduction system of the master is trained; executing a second stage during which the timing recovery system and the equalizer of the master are trained and the noise reduction system of the slave is trained; and executing a third stage during which the noise reduction system of the master is retrained." The Examiner asserts that claim 7 is taught by Gonikberg at column 3, lines 4-15. This excerpt of Gonikberg merely teaches updating coefficients of an echo canceller during a transmit-only phase of half duplex training and updating coefficients of an equalizer during a receive-only phase of half duplex training. This does not anticipate "'executing a first stage during which the timing recovery system and the equalizer of the slave are trained and the noise reduction system of the master is trained; (and) executing a second stage during which the timing recovery system and the equalizer of the master are trained and the noise reduction system of the slave is trained," per claim 7. Gonikberg further does not teach "executing a third stage during which the noise reduction system of the master is retrained" *after* executing first and second

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stages as set forth in claim 7. For at least these reasons, claim 7 is not anticipated by Gonikberg. Applicant therefore requests allowance of claim 7 and claims 8-14 depending therefrom.

Claim 15 includes limitations similar to those included to those in claims 1 and 7 and was rejected only with reference to the rejections of claims 1-14. Applicant submits that claim 15, and claims 16-18 depending therefrom, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 7.

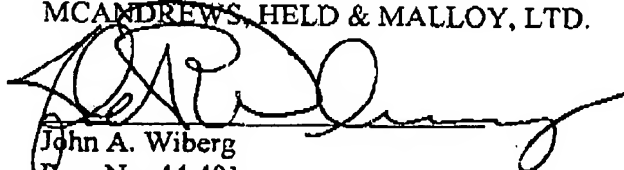
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-18.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.


John A. Wiberg
Reg. No. 44,401
Tel.: 312 775 8000

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street
34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100